



**Catherine H. Smith**  
Commissioner

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE**

**3/1/16**

**RE: SB 305: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE FILM PERMITTING PROCESS**

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Senator Hartley, Representative Perone, Senator Frantz, Representative Camillo and members of the Commerce Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 305: An Act Establishing a State Film Permitting Process.

As you are aware, our mission at the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) is to develop and implement strategies to increase the state's economic competitiveness. We do this by attracting and retaining businesses and jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and communities, and preserving and promoting cultural and tourism assets.

In an effort to efficiently and effectively carry out our mission, we at DECD are constantly evaluating our programs, processes and procedures. Over the past two years, DECD has conducted various LEAN exercises – including some in conjunction with other state agencies – which have helped us cut processing times, get answers to constituents more quickly, and improve the agency's overall efficiency. It was during one of these LEAN exercises that the idea for a state film permitting process materialized.

DECD's Office of Film, Television & Digital Media (CT Film Office) already assists local, national and international motion picture, TV, and media production companies with various tasks, including finding locations in Connecticut, hiring local cast and crew, and securing permits. SB 305 seeks to formalize the CT Film Office as the single point of contact for entities requesting authority to conduct a film production on state-owned land. Further, it proposes to establish a state film permit that these entities would need to acquire before seeking approval to film on property controlled by a state agency. This state film permit would serve to substantiate to a state agency that DECD has vetted the entity for the ability (including the appropriate insurance) to conduct film activities.

By establishing the CT Film Office as the single point of contact and implementing a state film permit, SB 305 promises to clarify and improve the process for those seeking to film on state-owned land. Since various other states have similar permit procedures, it also promises to align Connecticut's processes with ones already familiar to those in the industry.

As a result, we respectfully request your support of SB 305.